

**A**

**Brief  
History  
of the**



**336<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING GROUP**

*Office of History  
336th Training Group  
Fairchild AFB, Washington*

**October 2012**



**Emblem:** Approved on 16 November 1999.

**Significance:** The emblem is symbolic of the unit as well as the Air Force. Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe denotes the worldwide unit locations and the group's global mission. The wings represent the aircrew training functions of the unit and the sword in the lamp of knowledge symbolizes the combat orientation of the group's mission. The compass rose signifies the responsible discharge of knowledge as the guiding principle that unit personnel strive for in their instruction and training. Attached below the shield, the scroll is inscribed with the group's motto: "RETURN WITH HONOR."

Material for this history was drawn from unit and AETC histories and lineage and honors statements prepared by the Air Force Historical Research Agency. Any questions on content should be addressed with the 336th Training Group Office of History.

This pamphlet has been reviewed by the 92d Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office and has been cleared for public release.

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## **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE 336<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING GROUP**

The 336th Training Group, headquartered at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, is the sole manager of U.S. Air Force Survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) training. Its mission is to give airmen the means to survive “anywhere, anytime.”

The group incorporates the heritage of the 336th Bombardment Group (Medium) and the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group (Survival). Activated on 15 July 1942, the 336th Bombardment Group (Medium) operated the B-26 “Marauder” medium bomber at MacDill Field, Florida, training replacement crews for operational units. The group relocated to Lake Charles, Louisiana, in November 1943 and was disestablished on 1 May 1944. On 31 July 1985, HQ USAF redesignated the group as the 336th Air Refueling Wing, Heavy. At the time, the 336th was inactive.

Air Training Command (ATC) organized and established the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group (Survival) (336 CCTG) at Fairchild AFB on 1 March 1966. Its mission was to teach survival techniques to aircrew members. Prior to the activation of the 3636 CCTG, ATC had conducted its survival training program at Stead AFB, Nevada. In early 1966, HQ USAF announced Stead would close and survival training would move to Fairchild AFB.

The 3636 CCTG was not the only unit in the Air Force that taught survival techniques. ATC estimated that close to 100 land and water survival and life support continuation training schools existed throughout the Air Force. The Air Staff, concerned with continuity and funding, consolidated all survival training under the 3636 CCTG on 1 April 1971. At the same time, HQ USAF upgraded the group to wing status.

The 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing (Survival) now had responsibility for training programs scattered around the world. They included basic combat survival and survival instructor courses at Fairchild, arctic training at Eielson AFB in Alaska, tropic instruction at Albrook Air Base in Panama, and jungle

training at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. In addition, the wing conducted water survival training at Homestead AFB, Florida, and at Fairchild.

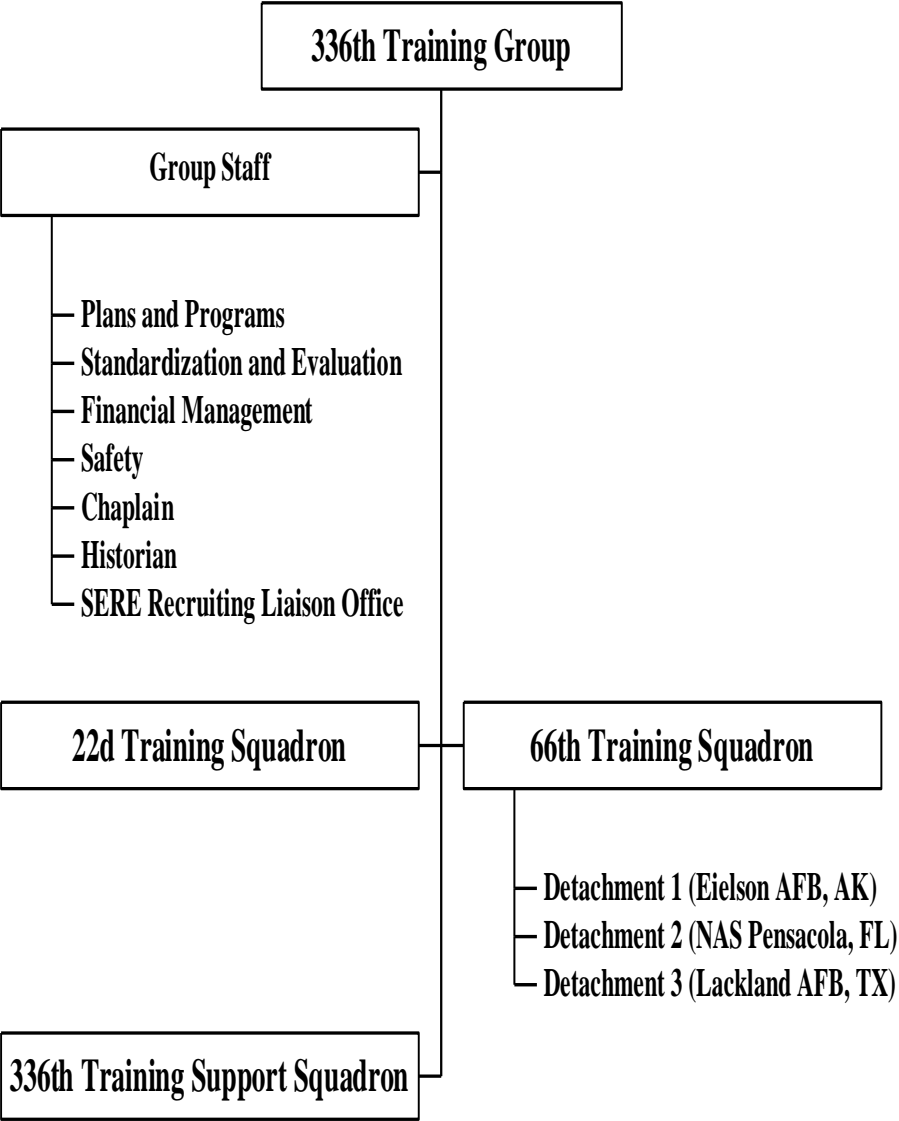
In 1973, the wing debriefed prisoners of war returning from Vietnam. Following the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, ATC closed the tropic and jungle survival schools in 1975. Between 1976 and 1985, the wing had a detachment at Nellis AFB, Nevada. Its purpose was to provide survival training for Red Flag exercises. In 1992 after Hurricane Andrew devastated Homestead AFB, Florida, ATC moved the water survival school to Tyndall AFB, Florida. Then in 1994, the water school relocated to its current home at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida.

On 1 January 1993, HQ USAF consolidated the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing (Survival) with the 336th Air Refueling Wing, Heavy and on 28 January 1993, HQ USAF redesignated the consolidated unit as the 336th Crew Training Group. The 336th underwent another name change on 1 April 1994, when “Crew” was removed from its designation. The group acquired a helicopter flight in 1993. Until that acquisition, the 336 TRG had depended on other units for aircraft support.

In 2008 the group added two detachments, one at Maxwell AFB and one at Lackland AFB along with an operating location at the United States Air Force Academy to teach Evasion and Conduct after Capture courses (ECAC). The detachment at Maxwell and the operating location at the Air Force Academy were short-lived as a decision was made at the Air Staff level to change from a philosophy of providing foundational ECAC training to providing “just in time training” to those that required it on an immediate basis, ensuring the training incorporated the latest information available. In 2012 operations at Lackland shifted under the purview of the 66 TRS and Det 2, 22 TRS was inactivated and Det 3, 66 TRS was activated in its place.

Coinciding with the inactivation of Nineteenth Air Force on 1 June 2012, the 336 TRG transferred to Second Air Force and the 36th Rescue Flight was reassigned to the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The flight remained at Fairchild and continued to provide support to the 336 TRG.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## LIST OF COMMANDERS

### 336th Bombardment Group:

Lt Col Joshua T. Winstead.....	Aug 42
Col Guy L. McNeil .....	Sep 42
Lt Col Joshua T. Winstead.....	Oct 42
Lt Col. Hugh B. Manson.....	Dec 43
Group Disestablished.....	1 May 44

### 336th Training Group:

Col Chester H. Bohart.....	Mar 66
Col Fred A. Moser, Jr. ....	Mar 68
Lt Col Henry L. Gibbs .....	Aug 70
Col William O. Rettig.....	Jan 71
Col John C. Carson III.....	Jul 72
Col John L. O'Donnell, Jr.....	May 74
Col Joe C. Williams.....	Jul 74
Col H. D. Allshouse.....	Oct 76
Col Leo D. O'Halloran, Jr. ....	Jun 79
Col Albert A. Gagliardi, Jr. ....	Apr 81
Col Norman A. McDaniel.....	Feb 83
Col John R. Goodley.....	May 85
Col Hans E. Hanson.....	Oct 86
Col Gerald S. Venanzi .....	Jul 89
Col David R. Lloyd.....	Aug 90
Col John C. Chapman, Jr. ....	Jul 92
Col John L. Strube .....	Jul 94
Col Kenneth M. Page.....	Jun 96
Col Donald L. Hoover .....	Jun 98
Col Craig R. Jensen .....	Jun 00
Col John S. Hester III .....	Aug 02
Col Richard B. Mc Nabb .....	Jul 04
Col Jeffrey D. White .....	Jul 06
Col Scott B. Greene.....	Jun 08
Col Ronald B. Baldinger .....	Aug 10
Col William B. Thomas.....	Jun 12

## AIRCRAFT

### **336th Bombardment Group:**

B-26 “Marauder” ..... Jul 42 – May 44

### **336th Training Group:**

UH-1N “Huey” ..... Jul 93 – Jun 12

## Honors

### **336th Bombardment Group:**

Service Streamer: World War II

American Theater

### **336th Training Group:**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:

1 Mar 66 – 31 Dec 67	1 Jul 91 – 30 Jun 93
1 Jan 72 – 31 Dec 72	1 Jul 93 – 30 Jun 95
1 Jan 74 – 31 Dec 74	1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 98
1 Jan 78 – 30 Apr 79	1 Jul 03 – 30 Jun 05
1 May 82 – 30 Apr 84	1 Jul 05 – 30 Jun 06
1 May 84 – 30 Apr 86	1 Jul 06 – 30 Jun 07
1 May 86 – 30 Apr 87	1 Jul 07 – 30 Jun 08
1 May 87 – 30 Apr 88	1 Jul 08 – 30 Jun 09
1 May 88 – 30 Apr 89	1 Jul 09 – 30 Jun 10
1 May 89 – 30 Apr 90	1 Jul 10 – 30 Jun 11
1 May 90 – 30 Apr 91	



## SHORT HISTORIES OF SUBORDINATE UNITS

### *22d Training Squadron*

The 22d Training Squadron incorporates the heritage of the 22d Special Operations Squadron and 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron.

The 22d Special Operations Squadron was activated on 25 October 1968, and assigned to the 56th Special Operations Wing operating out of Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Operating A-1 “Skyraider” attack aircraft, the squadron flew both day and night interdiction missions, as well as search and rescue support missions in Southeast Asia. During its brief history, the 22d Special Operations Squadron flew in seven separate Southeast Asia campaigns. The unit was inactivated on 30 September 1970.

Air Training Command activated the 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron on 1 April 1971, at Fairchild AFB, Washington, and assigned it to the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing for the purpose of conducting basic and combat survival training.

On 1 January 1993, HQ USAF consolidated the 3612th with the 22d Special Operations Squadron and redesignated the new squadron as the 22d Crew Training Squadron, effective 28 January 1993. HQ USAF redesignated the squadron again on 1 April 1994, naming it the 22d Training Squadron. In 2008 the squadron expanded to facilitate the addition of Evasion and Conduct After Capture (ECAC) training at Maxwell AFB, Lackland AFB, and the U.S. Air Force Academy by standing up two detachments and one operating location. Detachment 2 at Lackland AFB also administered the SERE Specialist Selection Course until January 2012 as part of an initiative to increase graduation rates of the SERE Specialist Course. With the scaling back of ECAC in 2011, AETC inactivated Detachment 1 on 1 December 2011 and Operating Location-A on 13 July 2012. Detachment 2 inactivated on 6 January 2012 and its mission transferred to the 66th Training Squadron.

***Aircraft flown:***

A-1 “Skyraider” 1968-1970

***Honors:***

**Campaign Streamers:**

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III, 1967 – 1968

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV, 1968 – 1969

Tet 69/Counteroffensive 1969

Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring 1969 – 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive 1970

Southwest Monsoon 1970

**Presidential Unit Citations (Southeast Asia):**

1 Nov 68 – 1 May 69

1 Oct 69 – 30 Apr 70

**Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:**

1 Nov 69 – 31 Jul 70 (With Combat V Device)

1 Jan 74 – 31 Dec 74

1 Jul 91 – 30 Jun 93

1 Jan 77 – 30 Apr 78

1 Jul 93 – 30 Jun 95

1 May 78 – 30 Apr 79

1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 98

1 May 82 – 30 Apr 84

1 Jul 03 – 30 Jun 05

1 May 84 – 30 Apr 86

1 Jul 05 – 30 Jun 06

1 May 86 – 30 Apr 87

1 Jul 06 – 30 Jun 07

1 May 87 – 30 Apr 88

1 Jul 07 – 30 Jun 08

1 May 88 – 30 Apr 89

1 Jul 08 – 30 Jun 09

1 May 89 – 30 Apr 90

1 Jul 09 – 30 Jun 10

1 May 90 – 30 Apr 91

1 Jul 10 – 30 Jun 11

## ***66th Training Squadron***

The 66th Training Squadron incorporates the heritage of the 66th Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium) and the 3614th Combat Crew Training Squadron.

The War Department activated the 66th Troop Carrier Squadron on 12 December 1942. Assigned to the 403d Troop Carrier Group, Fifth Air Force, it operated L-5 Sentinel light liaison aircraft as well as C-46 "Commando" and C-47 "Skytrain" transports. During World War II, the squadron provided transportation and resupply to forces in the Pacific Theater. It was inactivated on 15 January 1946, and then reactivated as a reserve squadron at Portland, Oregon on 3 August 1947. The 66th was ordered to active service on 1 April 1951, and inactivated shortly thereafter on 17 April 1951.

Air Training Command activated the 3614th Combat Crew Training Squadron on 4 April 1981, at Fairchild AFB. The squadron managed the Survival Instructor training course, with specialized instruction taking place throughout Washington, Oregon, and Montana. In addition, the 3614th was responsible for the nonparachuting water survival training course for non-ejection seat aircrews.

On 1 January 1993, HQ USAF consolidated the 3614th with the 66th Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium) and redesignated the new unit as the 66th Crew Training Squadron, effective 28 January 1993. A little over a year later, on 1 April 1994, HQ USAF again redesignated the squadron, this time as the 66th Training Squadron. On 2 January 1997, AETC activated two detachments and assigned them to the squadron, one at Eielson AFB, Alaska, the other at NAS Pensacola, Florida. Detachment 1 took over the mission of Detachment 1, 336 TRG when it inactivated on 2 January. At the same time, AETC inactivated the 17th Training Squadron at Pensacola, and Detachment 2 picked up the mission. On 6 January 2012, AETC activated Detachment 3 at Lackland AFB and it assumed the mission of the inactivated Detachment 2, 22d Training Squadron.

***Aircraft flown:***

C-47 “Skytrain” 1943 – 1945

C-46 “Commando” 1944 – 1945, 1947 – 1951

L-5 “Sentinel” 1945

***Honors:***

Campaign Streamers (World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater):

Northern Solomon Islands 1943 – 1944

Bismarck Archipelago 1943 – 1944

New Guinea 1943 – 1944

Leyte 1944 – 1945

Luzon 1944 – 1945

Southern Philippines 1945

Western Pacific 1944 – 1945

Distinguished Unit Citation (Philippine Islands)

17 Apr 45 – 30 Jun 45

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (World War II)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards:

1 May 82 – 30 Apr 84

1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 98

1 May 84 – 30 Apr 86

1 Jul 03 – 30 Jun 05

1 May 86 – 30 Apr 87

1 Jul 05 – 30 Jun 06

1 May 87 – 30 Apr 88

1 Jul 06 – 30 Jun 07

1 May 88 – 30 Apr 89

1 Jul 07 – 30 Jun 08

1 May 89 – 30 Apr 90

1 Jul 08 – 30 Jun 09

1 May 90 – 30 Apr 91

1 Jul 09 – 30 Jun 10

1 Jul 91 – 30 Jun 93

1 Jul 10 – 30 Jun 11

1 Jul 93 – 30 Jun 95

## ***336th Training Support Squadron***

The 336th Training Support Squadron was activated on 28 January 1993, as part of the reorganization of the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing (Survival). The squadron supports the group's training mission by providing a wide array of functions aligned under four functional flights; Logistics, Medical, Operations Support, and Training Technology encompassing 23 separate Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC).

Logistics Flight functions consist of field command post operations, supply, transportation, and civil engineering activities supporting the 336 TRG both at Fairchild and approximately 30 survival school remote training facilities, including the maintenance of over 450 miles of roads within the training area located in the Colville National Forest, 70 miles north of Spokane. In addition, parachute riggers and life support specialists assigned to the flight support jump requirements, maintained UH-1 aircrew flight equipment, and life raft/preservers. The Training Technology Flight develops and ensures currency and accuracy of all SERE School courseware. The flight also evaluates and implements emerging training technology such as advanced distributive learning, interactive courseware, intranet training delivery, and multimedia training productions. The Operations Support Flight performs all student administrative services, maintains student enrollment databases, and provides small computer and network support for the entire group. The Medical Flight provides initial medical and psychological treatment to survival school students and some permanently assigned personnel and provides medical personnel for 36 RQF operations.

### ***Honors:***

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:

28 Jan 93 – 30 Jun 93	1 Jul 06 – 30 Jun 07
1 Jul 93 – 30 Jun 95	1 Jul 07 – 30 Jun 08
1 Jul 96 – 30 Jun 98	1 Jul 08 – 30 Jun 09
1 Jul 03 – 30 Jun 05	1 Jul 09 – 30 Jun 10
1 Jul 05 – 30 Jun 06	1 Jul 10 – 30 Jun 11

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF SURVIVAL TRAINING

When the United States entered World War II, Army Air Force (AAF) officials and U.S. intelligence agencies inherited the thorny problem of recovering downed airmen in the several theaters of war. The success of British evasion and escape organizations did not go unnoticed and the AAF, in coordination with the Office of Strategic Services, took on the job of developing a capability that paralleled what the British had. As the scope of the war broadened in Europe, so did the business of rescuing downed airmen. With the help of well organized underground forces, the AAF extricated 60 percent of the aircrews downed in the Balkans by late 1944. The task of recouping downed airmen in the Pacific theater was far more complex and far less successful.

After the war, in August 1947, the Arctic Indoctrination School was established at Marks Field, Alaska, near the city of Nome. The school proved so valuable to aircrew survivability, a second training center was soon established at Ladd Air Force Base, Alaska, for land survival training. However, because of budgetary shortfalls and limited training instructor resources, the Air Force was forced to consolidate the Marks survival school with the school at Ladd in November 1948. It proved to be a workable merger in that the school conducted both aspects of survival training.



**Strategic Air Command established a survival school at Camp Carson, Colorado, in December 1949 to train their aircrews.**

General Curtis E. LeMay, Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command (SAC), was a strong advocate for survival training. He believed that, with proper training in environmental and situational

survival, the Air Force could decrease aircrew member losses during conflict. On 16 December 1949, Strategic Air Command established a survival school at Camp Carson, Colorado, to prepare SAC aircrews for mountainous terrain survival. The first aircrews arrived for training in April 1950. The initial training philosophy was to train entire aircrews together. Since SAC flew multi-place heavy bombers, an instructor could be in charge of up to a 12-man crew. As training began, the first students were those who had some evasion, survival, or resistance experience during World War II. This ensured that the “bugs” were worked out of the training objectives and that all areas were covered before uninitiated crews started the course. Training consisted of 14 days of instruction, with the first 3 days spent in on-base training and the next 11 in the field. Soon after training began, commanders from the Far East Air Forces, Tactical Air Force, Military Air Transport Service, and the Royal Canadian Air Force were vying for training slots for their aircrews.



**Students in the early 1950s learning how to prepare and cook food in a wilderness setting during the static phase of basic combat survival training,**

The school was so successful that the student training demand outgrew its Colorado location. After running more than 90 U.S. and Canadian crews through the school, Strategic Air Command sought a larger training area. In 1952, Stead AFB, Nevada,

became the new site of the survival school. Another change came in 1954, when the school transferred from SAC to ATC and its Crew Training Air Force. While at Stead, the school kept pace with the new challenges the Air Force created for its aircrew members. Survival instructors stopped training entire aircrews together, opting instead for individual training by mixed element. At the same time, the course was lengthened to 15 days and then to 21 days in 1953.



**As part of training received in the Jungle School in the mid-1960s, students learned how to build a sleeping platform using banana leaves.**

A major curriculum change occurred in 1957, with the inclusion of the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct, developed by a committee appointed by the Secretary of Defense to evaluate American POW experiences in Korea, was established on 17 August 1955. Although resistance training had been conducted since the school's inception, it had not had the anchor the Code of Conduct provided. During the Vietnam War, course length became shorter as students were put in the "pipeline" for duty in Southeast Asia during the mid- and late - 1960s.

In the early 1960s, the survival school, together with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), provided a five-day desert survival training course for the astronauts. The



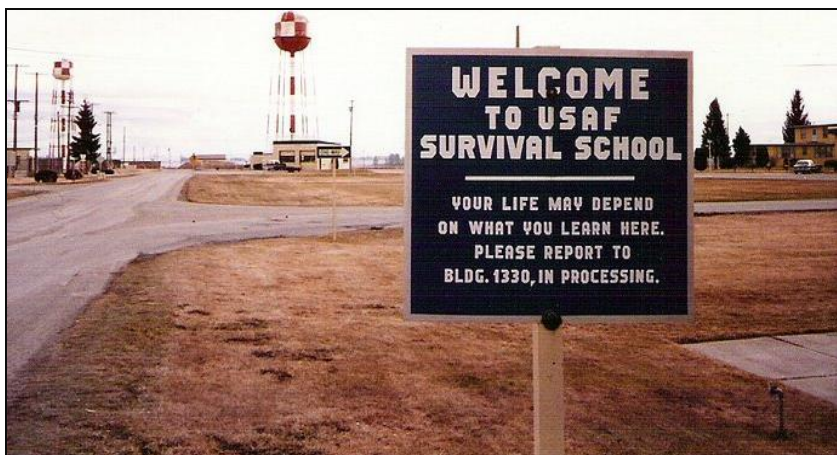
Stead survival school remained active for 12 years before the Secretary of Defense announced Stead would close on 30 June 1966, and all survival school assets would move to Fairchild AFB. Northeastern Washington provided thousands of acres of national forest, and the inland northwest offered varied climates within a limited geographic area, allowing the teaching of global aspects without high associated travel expenses.

In addition to the training provided at Fairchild, other Air Force major commands operated survival training programs, and their numbers increased during the course of the Vietnam War. The two largest were Tactical Air Command's Sea Survival School at Homestead AFB in Florida and Pacific Air Forces' Jungle Survival School at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. In 1971, towards the end of the Vietnam War, the Air Staff consolidated over 100 survival and life support schools under ATC management. A helicopter detachment was added to the school that year, brought on by lessons learned in the war: 85 percent of downed aircrews were rescued within six hours after bailout. The expanding role of women in the Air Force in the 1970s influenced survival training as the first women attended the basic aircrew course in August 1970 and in December 1977, the first two women graduated from the Survival Training Instructor course.



**This photo from the 1970s depicts aircrews building snow shelters as part of arctic survival training.**

During the 1970s and 1980s, course length changed numerous times. In 1985 the then 17-day course was renamed *Combat Survival Training* to emphasize the importance of operational focus for aircrew preparedness. Facility upgrades began in the late 1980s with the addition of a new Code of Conduct training laboratory which was a combined Prime Beef and volunteer effort.



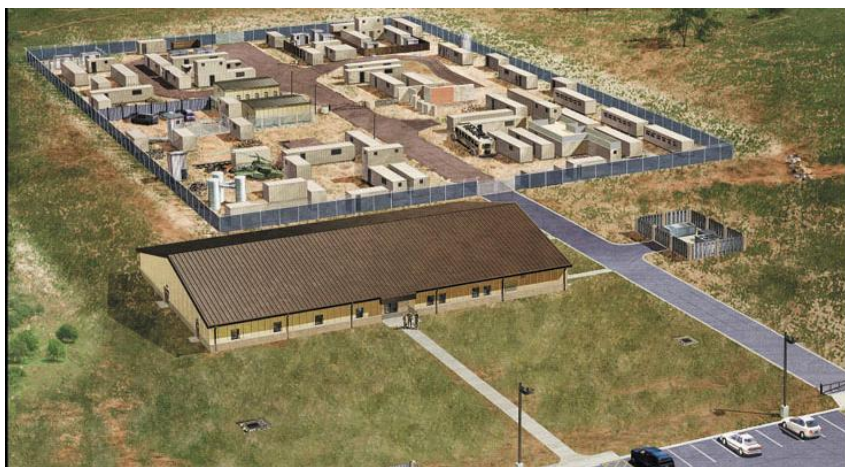
**A sign welcomes students to the Survival School at Fairchild AFB, Washington in the mid-1980s**

In August 1992, Hurricane Andrew ripped through southern Florida and destroyed Homestead AFB. The water survival school temporarily relocated to Tyndall AFB, where training resumed in November 1992. A subsequent Interservice Training Review Organization study ultimately led to the school's permanent relocation to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, in Pensacola, Florida.

During the 1990s, the survival school's organizational structure changed several times. In January 1993, the wing was redesignated as the 336th Crew Training Group and was reassigned in July of that year to the newly activated Nineteenth Air Force under ATC, which was itself redesignated Air Education and Training Command (AETC) on 1 July 1993. Another major organizational change occurred in January 1997, when AETC inactivated Detachment 1, 336 TRG, at Eielson AFB, and the 17th Training Squadron at NAS Pensacola. Those missions passed to the newly activated Detachment 1, 66th Training Squadron at

Eielson and Detachment 2, 66th Training Squadron at NAS Pensacola.

On 16 August 1999, the group broadened the scope of water survival training at Fairchild AFB by conducting the first Underwater Egress Training course using the Modular Egress Training Simulator (METS) to teach students to evacuate from a submerged and inverted helicopter.



**An artist's conception of the Air Force Evasion and Conduct After Capture Facility at Lackland AFB, Texas, completed in 2011.**

The events of 11 September 2001 had a dramatic impact on the nation and the Air Force. The Global War on Terrorism (later called Overseas Contingency Operations) created an increased demand for survival training as aircrews prepared for deployment in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM AND ENDURING FREEDOM. Responding to world events, the group expanded resistance training to include peacetime governmental detention and hostage survival. Evolving throughout 2006–2011, “full spectrum” captivity training represented the most dramatic change in resistance training since the inception of the Code of Conduct in 1957. Upon the inactivation of Nineteenth Air Force in June 2012, HQ AETC reassigned the 336 TRG to Second Air Force and the 36 RQF to the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The flight remained at Fairchild and continued to provide aerial support to the 336 TRG.

Today the 336 TRG continues its long history of providing world class SERE training. Never content to rest on their laurels, at present several initiatives are underway to ensure recruiting and training efforts produce the highest caliber SERE specialists in sufficient numbers to meet Air Force requirements and facility construction projects, both underway and in advocacy, promise to accentuate the training environment for students and staff alike.



**SERE Specialist trainees learned how to make a smoke generator in February 2012.**

## CHRONOLOGY

- 15 Aug 47      The Air Force established the Arctic Indoctrination School at Marks AFB, Alaska. At the same time, ATC's Technical Training Division created two mobile training teams to teach airmen how to survive in cold climates. A second school soon opened at Ladd AFB, Alaska.
- 02 Jul 49      The Air Force published its first detailed military survival plan entitled "Plan for Evasion and Escape, Training and Operations."
- 16 Dec 49      SAC began survival training at Camp Carson, Colorado. Other commands and other services quickly took an interest in this type of training. Before long, Camp Carson could not support the growing student load. As a result, SAC moved its survival school to Stead AFB, Nevada.



**Ladd AFB, Alaska was home to Arctic Survival Training from the late-1940s until 1960.**

- 22 Apr 50      The Arctic Survival School at Marks closed. Its training moved to Ladd AFB.



- 01 Sep 54      The Air Staff transferred responsibility for Stead and its survival mission from Strategic Air Command to Air Training Command.
- 15 Oct 60      The Arctic Survival School moved from Ladd to Eielson AFB, Alaska.
- 15 Mar 66      Air Training Command activated the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group (Survival) at Fairchild AFB, Washington.
- 30 Jun 66      All land survival school assets at Stead AFB moved to Fairchild AFB.



**The Survival School complex at Fairchild AFB, Washington, as it looked in 1966.**

- 01 Aug 69      The Basic Survival Course, Short Course, S-V85-A, was eliminated in order to save money and man-hours.
- 10 Aug 70      The first female student, Sergeant Bertie Jones, entered survival training course S-V80-A, Class 71-08.

01 Apr 71

The Air Staff consolidated the jungle, tropics, water, arctic, and land survival schools under Air Training Command. At the same time, HQ USAF redesignated the 3636th Combat Crew Training Group as a wing, and the wing became the sole manager for all Air Force survival training. The 3636th oversaw basic global survival training at Fairchild, jungle training at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, water training at Homestead AFB in Florida, arctic training at Eielson AFB in Alaska; and tropics instruction at Albrook AFB in the Panama Canal Zone.



**This 1968 photo shows students learning how to use rescue hoist devices at Albrook AFB in the Panama Canal Zone.**

- 01 Apr 71      Air Training Command activated the 3612th Combat Crew Training Squadron at Fairchild to conduct the basic survival course.
- 01 Jun 71      Air Training Command activated the 3613th Combat Crew Training Squadron at Homestead AFB, Florida, and assigned it to the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing. The 3613th conducted water survival training.
- Mid-1975      The 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing shuttered its jungle and tropics training programs.
- 05 Jul 77      Women first entered the Survival Instructor Training Course.
- 30 Jul 78      The first six women to enter NASA's astronaut program attended water survival training through 2 August at Homestead AFB. Among them was Judith Resnik, who died in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle accident.



**Sally Ride, a NASA astronaut, preparing to parasail during water survival training in 1977.**



- 18 May 80 Mount St Helens, a long-dormant volcano in western Washington, erupted and showered the state with ash. The 3636th suspended survival training for two reasons: First, Spokane International Airport had closed, so it was difficult for students to come to Fairchild and, second, base personnel were involved in the massive cleanup effort.
- 01 Apr 81 Air Training Command activated the 3614th Combat Crew Training Squadron at Fairchild as a subordinate unit of the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing. The new squadron was responsible for conducting the survival training instructor course and the nonparachuting water survival course.
- 01 Mar 85 Eight survival courses won affiliation with the Community College of the Air Force.
- 05 Jun 85 The Air Force renamed the Basic Survival Training course the Combat Survival Training course to better describe the basic skills and principles taught to survive in the combat environment.
- 01 Oct 86 The Combined Services Support Program (S-V82-A) and the Special Survival Training Course (S-V83-A) taught at Homestead AFB and Fairchild AFB, respectively, transferred from Air Training Command to the Air Force Intelligence Service.
- 31 Aug 87 Fifteen NASA astronaut candidates attended a specially designed condensed survival course. The candidates, along with six NASA engineers and technicians, spent three days in the Sullivan Lake training area learning immediate survival techniques.
- 07 Nov 89 A groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of construction on a \$1.8 million, 234-person student housing and dining facility project.

1992                      Course writers revised S-V80-A, “Combat Survival Training,” course material to incorporate lessons learned from Operation DESERT STORM (the United Nations effort to liberate Kuwait from Iraq).

Nov 92                      In August 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed Homestead Air Force Base. As a result, the Air Force relocated water survival training to Tyndall AFB, Florida.



**The Turkey Point Marine Maintenance Facility at Homestead AFB in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.**

28 Jan 93                      HQ USAF consolidated the 336th Air Refueling Wing with the 3636th Combat Crew Training Wing (Survival) and then redesignated the new organization as the 336th Crew Training Group. At the same time, the three combat crew training squadrons—the 3612th, 3613th, and 3614th—were redesignated as the 22d, 17th, and 66th Crew Training Squadrons, respectively.

- 01 Jul 93 As a part of the Year of Training initiative, the Air Force combined education and training under a single command. HQ USAF redesignated Air Training Command as Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and activated two numbered Air forces under AETC. Nineteenth Air Force gained responsibility for all flying, crew, and survival training, while Second Air Force managed all technical training.
- 01 Apr 94 HQ USAF redesignated the 336th Crew Training Group as the 336th Training Group, and its crew training squadrons became training squadrons.
- Jun 94 Following an Interservice Training Review Organization study, the Air Force agreed to move the 17th Training Squadron to NAS Pensacola, Florida, where the water training course for ejection-seat personnel would be collocated with the Navy's program.



**This ceremony marked the disestablishment of the USAF Water Survival School's Marine Flight in 1995.**

01 Oct 95

The USAF Water Survival School's Marine Flight was dissolved with the elimination of Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 2B0XX (Boatmasters and Marine Engineers).



**The first SERE 7-level upgrade students received open ocean training in March 1996 in the Gulf of Mexico.**

20 Feb 96

Twelve survival instructor journeymen attended the first Survive, Evade, Resist, and Escape (SERE) 7-Level Upgrade (proficiency) course. This course, conducted from 20 February to 22 March 1996, provided training in the tropic, temperate, desert, and arctic environments.

19 Nov 96

A severe ice storm knocked down trees and power lines leaving parts of the Spokane area without power for several weeks. Training continued, however, due to the diligent efforts of 336 TRG personnel who worked overtime to remove snow and ice from roads, vehicles, and facilities. They also removed over 200 fallen trees in the Colville National Forest and assisted with the repair of critical snow removal vehicles.

- 2 Jan 97      AETC inactivated the 17th Training Squadron at Pensacola and Detachment 1, 336th Training Group at Eielson. and activated Detachment 1, 66th Training Squadron at Eielson and Detachment 2, 66th Training Squadron at NAS Pensacola.
- 14 Mar 97      Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen Ronald Fogleman, dedicated the survival school's new academic training facility named for Medal of Honor recipient, Col George E. "Bud" Day, a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.
- 08 Apr 97      A UH-1N Huey from the 36th Rescue Flight reached the 10,000-hour flying mark; the first in the Air Force's inventory to reach this milestone.



**This 1998 photo shows a 36 RQF UH-1N helicopter and crew practicing rescue hoists with students.**

- 31 May 98      The Joint Combat Search and Rescue Test Force, headquartered at Nellis AFB, Nevada, hosted Joint Rescue Exercise 98 (JREX 98) from 31 May-14 June 1998 in the Colville National Forest. The participating units were staged out of Geiger Field and the Spokane International Airport, both just a few miles from Fairchild.



25 Sept 98      Hurricane George forced the evacuation of NAS Pensacola, Florida. The staff from Det 2, 66 TRS evacuated to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, and other inland areas. The hurricane caused very minor damage to the detachment's facilities.

**Shown here, students undergoing Underwater Egress Training at Fairchild AFB. Acquired in 1999, the Modular Egress Training Simulator was designed to teach students to extract themselves from a submerged and inverted helicopter.**



16 Aug 99      The 66th Training Squadron's Water Survival Flight conducted its first certified Underwater Egress Training course using the Modular Egress Training Simulator (METS) at the Fairchild AFB pool. The METS was designed to teach students to extract themselves from a submerged and inverted helicopter safely and effectively.

01 Sept 99      The group broke ground for Phase II of the Col George E. "Bud" Day Academics Facility. Phase II would incorporate emerging technology to teach students how to survive in all locations, conditions, and climates.

- 16 Nov 99      The Air Force Historical Research Agency approved the incorporation of the group's revised motto, "Return with Honor," on its official emblem.
- 16 Mar 00      The U.S. Navy officially withdrew from Navy/Air Force Interservice Water Survival Parasail Training at NAS Pensacola. Responsibility for Air Force training returned fully to Det 2, 66 TRS
- 31 May 00      The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed the Record of Decision for the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The signing implemented a five-year phase out of Air Force use of the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge.
- 01 Jan 0 2      The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers turned over the completed Logistics Support Complex to the group. The complex housed the 336 TRSS Supply and Transportation branches.
- 01 Jan 02      The 336th Training Support Squadron (336 TRSS) Rigger Section was officially stood up when the remaining four of six rigger personnel arrived at Fairchild Air Force Base.
- 30 Oct 02      Contracting officials at HQ AETC awarded a SERE instructor contract to Martin Ayers Research Corporation (MARC). The contract included 12 months of service from 10 full-time and 4 part-time instructors who would supplement SERE training at Fairchild AFB and remote training sites near Cusick, Washington.
- 01 Jun 03      The first Combat Rescue Officer Advanced SERE Course (S-V94-A) began. The course was created for AFSC 13DXA Combat Rescue Officers (CRO) and was designed to familiarize the trainees with SERE tactics and to provide training in an intense simulated combat environment, giving the CROs more realistic exposure to Personnel Recovery (PR) duties.

- 10 Jun 04      The 336 TRSS welcomed its first Tucker Terra Sno-Cat into its fleet. The Tucker was slated to replace the group's aging SUS-V fleet over the following seven years.
- 22 Jan 07      The 336 TRG began teaching full spectrum captivity during SERE Training (S-V80-A), incorporating wartime prisoner of war and peacetime governmental and hostage detention.
- Jun 08          Combat Skills Training, facilitated by the 336 TRG, returned to the US Air Force Academy after a four-year absence. The return was short lived as the training was discontinued in 2011.
- 01 May 08      Responding to direction from Air Force Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley's, the 336 TRG began providing enhanced SERE training at Fairchild to non-aircrew service members via the Evasion and Conduct After Capture (S-V88-A) course.
- 08 Jun 10      Water Survival Training was suspended between 8 June and 7 September 2010 at Detachment 2, 66th Training Squadron, located at NAS Pensacola, due to contamination from a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



**SERE candidates and instructors fill sandbags in Pend Oreille County, Wash, saving homes from being flooded in June 2011.**



- 09 Jun 11      While conducting field training, 40 SERE School student candidates and instructors filled approximately 10,000 sandbags in Pend Oreille County, Wash, saving three homes from being flooded. The SERE instructors and candidates learned of the need for assistance while they were training in the area.
- 01 Jun 12      Upon the inactivation of Nineteenth Air Force AETC reassigned the 336 TRG to Second Air Force and the 36th Rescue Flight to the 58th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. The flight remained at Fairchild and continued to provide support to the 336 TRG.
- Aug 12        The 336 TRG Headquarters, and the 66 TRS, and 336 TRSS Command Staffs and other elements of the squadrons, moved into a new Mission Support Facility following completion of Phase 1 of the building. A second phase of the project was slated break ground in 2013.



**A flight representing the 336 TRG salutes during a retreat ceremony honoring prisoners of war and those missing in action held at the 336th Training Group headquarters building flagpole on 21 September, 2012.**

## **RETURN WITH HONOR**



**The United States and POW-MIA flags fly day and night over the 336th Training Group Headquarters**

## THE WINGED BOOT



The tradition of the “Winged Boot” began in June 1941, when the Royal Air Force issued the badge to aircrews that walked back to their bases after being forced down. Originally exclusive to units assigned to the Middle-East, Returning aircrews became members of the “Late Arrivals Club” and were authorized to wear the “Winged Boot” on their uniforms. The club motto was, “it is never too late to come back.” The USAAF adaptation was known as the “Blister Club,” referring to any of the over 3000 airmen who escaped or evaded capture in Western Europe. The Winged Boot was adopted as an informal symbol of the survival career field and the tradition continues today.